

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN FS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ABF-01 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY BF/FS/O:MKSHAFSHUF:SKM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 138142

E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN

SUBJECT: EMBASSY AMERICAN EXPRESS FACILITY

REF: BELLINGER/SHAFSHUF TELCON, AND PREVIOUS

TREASURY HAS REITERATED ITS DESIRE TO CLOSE THE AMERICAN EXPRESS MILITARY BANKING FACILITY AT THE EMBASSY. A LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, COMPTROLLER, USAREUR, STATES (A) THE MILITARY CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT IT, (B) THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY A COMMERCIAL BANKING FACILITY, AND (C) QUESTIONS THE LEGALITY OF THIS MBF AT THE EMBASSY.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE USAREUR COMPTROLLER AGREED TO SUPPLY US AND MARK CURRENCY FOR THE CASHIER IF NEEDED THROUGH THE WIESBADEN FACILITIES. ALTHOUGH THE COMPTROLLER HAS NOW CHANGED, TREASURY BELIEVES SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS COULD STILL BE WORKED OUT. THE EMBASSY AND TREASURY WERE ASSURED BY AMEX THAT THE TRAVEL FACILITIES NEED NOT BE CLOSED; THIS APPEARED TO BE A MAJOR CONCERN. IN ADDITION, TREASURY MENTIONED THAT IT HAD BEEN INFORMALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ADVISED ONE OF THE LOCAL BANKS MAY BE INTERESTED IN OPENING A SMALL COMMERCIAL BRANCH AT THE EMBASSY AT NO EXPENSE TO TREASURY.

WE HAVE TREASURY'S CONTINUED DESIRE TO CLOSE THE BANKING
FACILITY, THE MILITARY DECLINING ANY NEED FOR IT, AND THE
QUESTION OF CONTINUED LEGALITY.

THE EMBASSY'S IMMEDIATE REPLY IS REQUESTED. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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